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National solidarity — primary requisite of the country

The primary requisite of the country is none other than the national solidarity. In consolidating the national unity, the national policy which should be relied on as the main pillar is non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade)

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Bangladeshi President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Bangladeshi Chief Adviser of Non-party Caretaker Government

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2008, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Honourable Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of Non-party Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. — MNA

Wayalet-Shwehninsi tarred road opened in Yangon North District

YANGON, 25 March — Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Wayalet-Shwehninsi tarred road built on self-reliant basis to link Palaya, Pyitawtha and Paukon villages in Mingaladon Township, Yangon North District, was held at the archway of the road in Palaya Ward in the township at 7 am today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and
(See page 10)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveils the signboard of Wayalet-Shwehninsi tarred road in Mingaladon Township. — MNA



Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 March, 2008

Environmental conservation for safety of living creatures

Living creatures rely on natural environment such as water, earth, forests, mountains, rivers, creeks, lakes and seas for their living.

The government has placed emphasis on conservation of forests and protection of biodiversity for prevention against environmental degradation.

In 1990, Myanmar formed the National Commission for Environmental Conservation and launched its plans for environmental conservation. In addition, it conserves more than 60,000 square miles of forest reserves, protected forests and natural forests for ensuring sustainable progress of forests.

The plans include extensive establishment of forest plantations including tasks for greening Bago Yoma mountain range and arid zones, and establishment of sanctuaries and wildlife parks.

Now, the nation has many sanctuaries, and Indawgyi Lake, for instance, holds more than 200 species of fish and tortoise and more than 120 species of birds. Plans are well under way to protect some rare species of animals residing near the lake from their extinction.

There is a link between security of living creatures and environmental conservation. So, local organizations and the entire people have to work in concert for conservation of the environment including forests and rare species of birds and animals.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Thura U Thet Oo Maung appointed as Ambassador to Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Thura U Thet Oo Maung as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

U Hla Myint appointed as Ambassador to Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hla Myint, Director General of the International Organization and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia. — MNA

UMFCCI President meets Chief Minister, Central Province District of Kandy

YANGON, 24 March — President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint met Mr Sarath Ekanayake, Chief Minister, Central Province District of Kandy, of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at his office, here, on 20 March.

The meeting focused on investment and business opportunities, discussing economic-related matters by sending delegate groups reciprocally, participation in trade fairs and cooperation in technology in industry works.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win, General-Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint-Secretary 1

Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint-Secretary 2 U Tun Aung, CEC member U Myo Thant, Mr UPF Saranawarige and Mr JS Navaratne of Chief Minister's Office and Counsellor of the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka HMGRK Wijeratne Mendis.

MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Bangladeshi adviser for Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

MNA

UMFCCI President U Win Myint meeting Mr Sarath Ekanayake, Chief Minister, Central Province District of Kandy, of Sri Lanka.—UMFCCI



“Twentieth Century Tatmadawmen Writers” in circulation

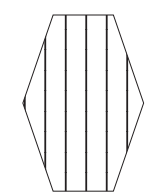
YANGON, 25 March—Honouring the Tatmadawmen writers who contributed literary works such as literature, poems, stories etc. from colonial period to date, the Information and Public Relations Department published a book titled “Twentieth Century Tatmadawmen Writers”.

The book carries biographies of 108 Tatmadawmen writers and literary works they contributed to mark the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

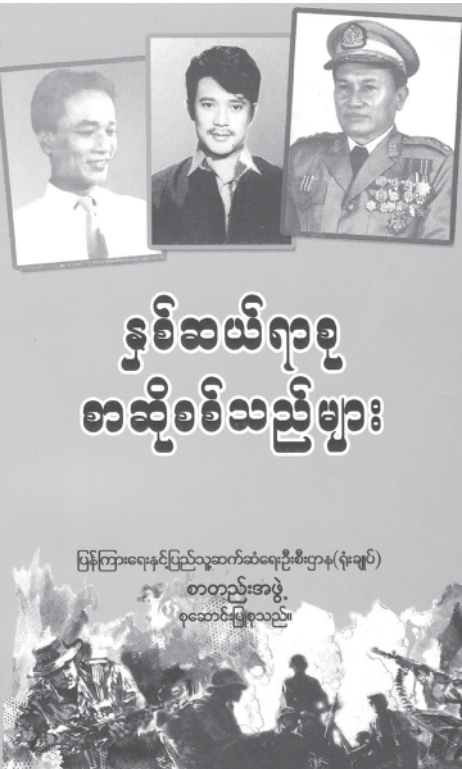
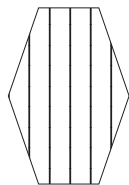
It is available at Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, War Moe Aung Sapay and the Township Information and Public Relations Departments at K 1500 per copy.—MNA

Beware of Fire

Take Fire Preventive Measures



Cover of the book titled “Twentieth Century Tatmadawmen Writers.”





Members of Turkey's Labour Party chant anti-US slogans outside the presidential palace as US Vice President Dick Cheney and Turkey's President Abdullah Gul meet at the Cankaya Palace in Ankara. —INTERNET

US helicopters' attack kills 12 civilians in N-E Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 March—US helicopters pounded an area in a town in the volatile province of Diyala on Sunday morning, killing 12 people and wounding five others, an Interior Ministry source said.

“US helicopters pounded four houses in the town of Baladruz, some 100 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, killing 12 civilians and wounding five others,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Attacks kill 32 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 March 25 — A new wave of attacks across Iraq on Sunday killed at least 32 people and wounded more than 70, while insurgents fired barrages of rockets on the US-protected Green Zone area in Baghdad.

Of Sunday's bloodshed, the deadliest occurred in the northern city of Mosul, where a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden truck into an Iraqi Army base at about 7:00 a.m (0400 GMT) local time in the Haramaat neighbourhood in western of the city, killing 13 soldiers and wounding 30 others, a local security source told *Xinhua*.

He added that 12 civilians were also wounded by the powerful blast which damaged several nearby houses. — MNA/Xinhua

Peace activists march in the streets protesting against war in Berlin, Germany, on 24 March, 2008. German peace activists took to the streets Monday to demonstrate against war in several cities of Germany. —Xinhua



AL chief welcomes Hamas-Fatah deal to resume talks

CAIRO, 25 March— Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa welcomed an agreement signed between Palestinian Hamas and Fatah move-ments on Sunday in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa to resume dialogue.

The agreement is regarded as a positive step to end internal conflicts among the rival Palestinian groups, the Egyptian official *MENA* news agency quoted Moussa as saying in a statement following the

announcement of the Hamas-Fatah deal.

Hailing the efforts exerted by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Moussa hoped that the rival Palestinian groups will soon resume talks to help Palestinians face the serious challenges due to failure of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

Earlier in the day, Hamas spokesman in Gaza Ayman Taha said Hamas and its rival Fatah movement leaders agreed to resume dialogue on 5 April.

“Leaders of Hamas and Fatah agreed in Yemen to resume their dialogue on 5 April in the Palestinian territories. The dialogue will be based on the Yemeni initiative for reconciliation,” said Taha.

Yemeni President Saleh has presented a seven-point initiative to leaders of Hamas and Fatah, which suggested areversion to the pre-June 2007 situation and holding early presidential and legislaive elections.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq imposes Basra curfew due to clashes

BASRA (Iraq), 25 March —Iraqi authorities on Monday imposed a night-time curfew on the movement of people and

vehicles in the southern province of Basra until further notice due to clashes between police and members of Mehdi Army

militia. “To impose the law and chase the criminals.—we have decided to impose a curfew in the whole of Basra starting from tonight at 10 pm until 6 am and everyday after until further notice,” said Lieutenant-General Mohan al-Furaiji.

Authorities said they would also temporarily close access to Basra, 550 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, from neighbouring provinces during the evening hours starting from Wednesday and lasting until Friday. Schools and universities will also not hold classes on Wednesday and Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



A group of tourists watch the Inca's citadel of Machu Picchu in Cuzco on 24 March, 2008. Peru expects the arrival of two million visitors in 2008, after the election of Machu Picchu as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World, according to Peru's Tourism and Commerce Ministry.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Magnitude 6.1 quake hits Chile, no damage reported

SANTIAGO, 25 March—A powerful magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck copper-rich northern Chile on Monday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

“For the moment we have no reports of damage or power disruptions,” a source at Chile's National Disaster Agency (ONEMI) said shortly after the quake, which struck near the Bolivian border.

The USGS said the quake, centred 88 miles (141 kilometres) east of the Chilean city of Iquique, struck at a depth of 74.3 miles (120 kilometres). Originally it said the quake occurred at a depth of 24.9 miles (40 kilometres).

Miners in the region said they felt the quake, but there were no initial reports of damage from major mines either in Chile or Peru to the north.

Quake-prone Chile is a major copper producer.— MNA/Reuters



T-50 supersonic training planes take off for training at an airforce base in Gwangju, south of Seoul in this picture released on 24 March, 2008. South Korea plans to cut down on training flights, reducing the army's field drills and slowing down ships in order to save fuel with global oil prices at record highs, a Defence Ministry official said on Monday.—INTERNET

Iran rejects Sarkozy's claim on missile threats

TEHERAN, 24 March —Iran on Sunday rejected French President Nicolas Sarkozy's comments on the necessity to build a strong deterrent against new security threats posed by nuclear-armed Islamic states, a news agency reported.

Speaking on Friday at the launch of the fourth of France's latest generation of nuclear-armed submarines, Sarkozy said Iran was "increasing the range of its missiles while serious suspicions weigh

on its nuclear programme". But Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini insisted Iran was a source of peace and stability in the Middle East.

"Iran has upgraded its capabilities (and) drawing a parallel between these achievements and possible threats against other countries is inappropriate and invalid," the students' news agency ISNA quoted Hosseini as saying.

Iran, locked in a standoff with the West over

its nuclear plans, had previously boasted it had missiles that could sink "big warships" in the Gulf, a region where US aircraft carriers and warships operate.

Iran's *Shahab-3* missile, with a range of 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles), is capable of hitting Israel and US bases in the Gulf, Iranian officials say. Iran has refused to recognise Israel since the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the US-backed Shah.

MNA/Reuters

Gillani elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD, 25 March — Pakistan's former National Assembly speaker Yousuf Raza Gillani was elected as the new Prime Minister of the country on Monday.

Gillani secured 264 votes from the 342-seat Parliament, and Pervaiz Elahi, the candidate from opposition party Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid

(PML-Q), got 42 votes.

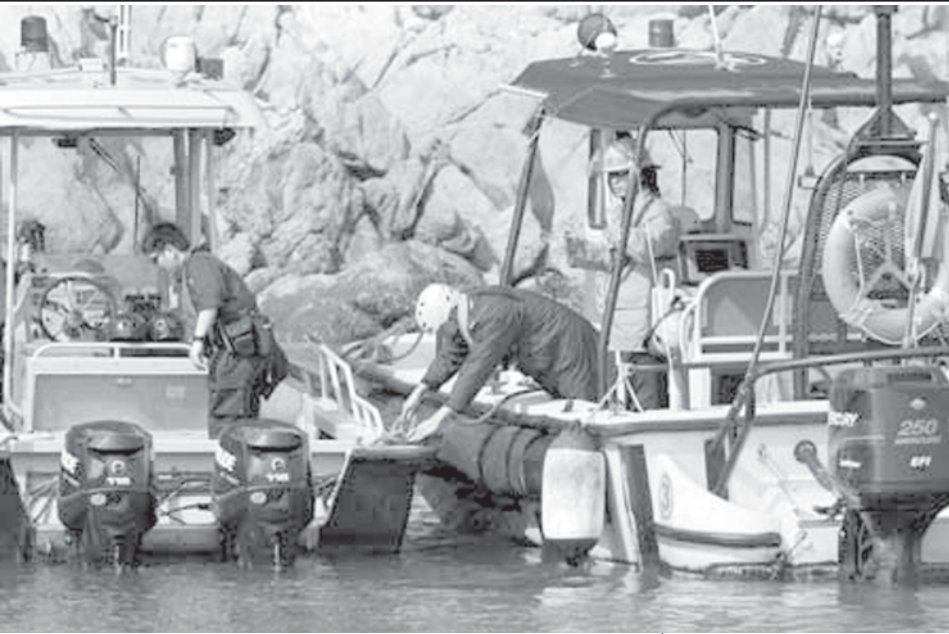
The Prime Minister will be sworn in before President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday and the government is expected to be sworn in later in the week.

"We have paid heavy prices for restoration of democracy," Gillani said in his first address as Prime Minister.

"Bhutto's sacrifice has enabled the restoration of democracy," said Gillani in Pakistan's national language urdu.

Gillani said the government would protect all the institutions including judiciary, asking the immediate release of detained judges.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam to build first nuclear plant in 2010

HANOI, 25 March — Vietnam will start construction of its first nuclear plant with capacity of 2,000 megawatts at total investment of some four billion US dollars in 2010, local newspaper *Investment* reported Monday.

The plant will be built

in southern Ninh Thuan Province, and become operational in 2020, the newspaper quoted sources from the Electricity Vietnam (EVN), the country's biggest electricity producer and sole distributor, as reporting.

MNA/Xinhua

US warship fires on Egyptian craft, killing one

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 25 March — A US warship fired on a motor boat in the Gulf of Suez on Monday, killing one Egyptian and wounding two others, Egyptian security sources and witnesses said.

The US ship *Global*

Patriot fired on the Egyptian vessel after it ignored calls to stay away, the sources said.

The Egyptian vessel was carrying goods to sell to ships passing through the Suez Canal, a transit for US ships heading to the Gulf, the

sources said.

The US ship had been awaiting permission to pass through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, the sources added.

MNA/Reuters

Police and rescuers anchor their boats near Tuen Mun in Hong Kong, on 25 March 2008 as they continue to search for the missing Ukrainian crew of the ill-fated Naftogaz-67 tugboat.

INTERNET

Mugabe calls opposition "treasonous" British allies

HARARE, 24 March — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe accused the main opposition on Saturday of forging a "treasonous" alliance with former colonial power Britain to oust him.

The 84-year-old leader is seeking re-election for another five-year term in a presidential race in which he faces former finance minister Simba Makoni and Morgan Tsvangirai, who leads the main faction of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Mugabe, a former liberation hero in power since independence in 1980, took his election campaign to the capital Harare in the final stretch to the 29 March general election, the biggest challenge to his rule since he took office.

He told thousands of supporters in an open sports ground in the poor township of Mbare that Britain was sponsoring the MDC in a bid to reverse the seizure of White-owned land for Blacks. —MNA/Reuters

Using the yellow flowers of rape as a background, wheat crops are planted in circles to create the five Olympic rings in Kaiyang County in Southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 24 March, 2008. Each ring is 136m in diameter and 9m wide.

XINHUA



Dialogue between G-8, developing nations should be maintained

BEIJING, 24 March—Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in an interview with Russian media that China believed the dialogue between the Group of Eight (G-8) and developing nations was a good pattern which should be maintained.

“The current dialogue pattern between G-8 and relevant nations is working well, and should be maintained,” said Yang when responding to the question on whether China

planned to join the G-8 in a written interview with the *Interfax* news agency on Friday.

He said there were still differences between G8 members on the expansion of G-8, and China will keep contacts with all relevant parties on this issue. Yang said China has noticed the recent remarks from inside and outside G-8 to expand the group and increase some members of developing nations. “This shows that

relevant side attaches great importance to the role of developing nations and the dialogue and cooperation between the South and the North, which China appreciates,” he said.

Yang added that Chinese leaders have attended the dialogues between G-8 and developing nations for many times at invitation, which China believed were conducive to promoting multi-lateralism and the settlement of global issues, and building a new global partnership of development featuring equality, mutual benefit and win-win results.

Xinhua

Hamas slams Cheney's statements

GAZA, 25 March—A spokesman for Islamic Hamas movement in Gaza slammed on Sunday the statements of US Vice-President Dick Cheney on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, saying it is biased.

Cheney said on Saturday that the US will not pressure Israel and the

US has a “continuing and unshakable” commitment to Israel’s security and its right to defend itself against those bent on destroying the Jewish state.

“Cheney’s statements certify that the American Administration is a partner with the Israeli occupation in its crimes committed against our Palestinian people,” Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas spokesman in Gaza told reporters.

Terming the statements “a full biased position” unfair towards the Palestinian people,” Barhoum warned that it could incite great holocaust against Gaza.

Xinhua

Ship sinking kills four off Alaska's harbour

LOS ANGELES, 24 March—Four crew members were confirmed dead after a ship sank off Alaska’s Dutch Harbour, the Coast Guard said on Sunday. The Seattle-based fishing boat began sinking off Alaska’s Dutch Harbour early Sunday morning, prompting 43 other crew members to abandon the ship, said Coast Guard Lieutenant Eric Eggan. The 43 crew members who abandoned ship have been recovered safely, said Eggan.

The 180-foot Alaska Ranger began taking on water shortly before 3 am after losing control of its rudder 120 miles (192 kilometres) west of Dutch Harbour, according to Eggan. The rescued crew members were heading to Dutch Harbour, accompanied by a Coast Guard cutter and a sister ship of the Alaska Ranger, Eggan said. —*Xinhua*

Serbia reaches \$235m arms deal with Iraq

BELGRADE, 25 March—Serbia has reached a deal with Iraq to export weapons and military equipment worth 235 million US dollars, Serbian Defence Minister Dragan Sutanovac said Monday.

“We expect that the money will be deposited, and that we will show that despite challenges, the country is stable, and the Serbian military industry has the capacity to produce what has been agreed upon,” Sutanovac told the official news agency *Tanjug*.

Serbia’s government collapsed on 13 March due to infighting between the ruling coalition over Kosovo and EU integration. Early parliamentary elections have been called for 11 May.

Sutanovac said an Iraqi Defence Ministry delegation had visited Serbia twice in recent months and that a deal was signed with the state military trade company Jugoimport SDPR.

Xinhua



Students of Qingdao No1 Middle School play on a playground built on the roof of a commercial building in the downtown area of Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, on 24 March, 2004.

XINHUA

Thai PAD condemns Govt's Constitution amendment plan

BANGKOK, 24 March—The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD), a known Thai civil group, on Sunday condemned the government’s plan to amend the 2007 Constitution and vowed to fight against the amendment.

The group said during a Press briefing on Sunday afternoon that the amendment will lead to a “Constitution crisis”.

PAD’s secretary-general Suriyasai Katasila was quoted by the state-run *Thai News Agency* as saying that “if the Constitution amendment is carried out by any party with some interests (in the amendment), the amended version might not be well accepted and consequently lead to a Constitution crisis”.

Suriyasai made the comment after the ruling People Power Party (PPP) announced its resolution on Saturday to push for Constitution amendment. —*Xinhua*

China's vice-PM underscores improving people's livelihood

BEIJING, 24 March—Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang said here Sunday that China would stick to reform and opening up and step up efforts to improve the people’s livelihood.

Addressing a forum in Beijing, Li said that China would deepen reform, improve the socialist market economy and build a service-oriented government.

China would strengthen bilateral and multi-lateral economic and trade cooperation and take scientific innovation as the core of the country’s development strategy, he said.

To improve people’s livelihood, the government should prioritize education development, create more jobs, improve social welfare, bridge income gap and seek solutions in medical care and environment, he said. —*Xinhua*

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

A model shows a creation by Russian designer Natasha Glazkova during Moscow Fashion Week on 24 March, 2008.
XINHUA



Performers of a Czech traditional troupe attend a street show for Easter in Kralice na Hané, the Czech Republic, on 24 March, 2008. *XINHUA*



Serb PM accuses NATO bombers of cynical land grab

BELGRADE, 25 March —Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica marked the anniversary of NATO's bombing of Serbia on Monday with an attack accusing the West of cynically grabbing territory in the name of humanitarian intervention.

"Now it is more than obvious that the cruel destruction of Serbia during the NATO bombardment had only one aim: to turn the province of Kosovo into the world's first NATO

state," he told the state news agency *Tanjug*.

NATO began bombing strategic targets in Serbia on 24 March, 1999, and kept it up for 78 days until the late strongman Slobodan Milosevic agreed to pull his forces from Kosovo and end the killing of Albanian civilians in a counter-insurgency war. Launching the first war in its history, and freighted with a failure to act in Bosnia, the alliance said it would not stand by and watch

another bloodbath in the Balkans by Serb forces.

Kosovo has been run by the United Nations and patrolled by NATO troops since 11 June, 1999. Its 90 per cent Albanian majority declared independence on 17 February with Western support.

The European Union, which Serbia wants to join, plans to deploy a supervisory mission in the country, following a blueprint set out by United Nations envoy Martti Ahtisaari.—MNA/Reuters



A local villager looks at the ruins of an agricultural tractor after it plunged into a 12-metre ditch in Fengqing county, Yunnan Province on 24 March, 2008. —INTERNET

China's CAO recovers from losses after boss's malpractice

BEIJING, 24 March — The Singapore unit of China's major jet fuel provider China Aviation Oil Group (CAO) has recovered from losses, according to CAO sources.

From 2006 to 2007, the Singapore unit made 69.7 million US dollars of profits through the oil business and returns on other investments,

CAO's general manager Sun Li told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

The Singapore-listed company also paid off debts four years in advance and issued high dividends, Sun said. The company purchased 8.9 million tons of aviation oil from 2006 to 2007. The company's former chief executive officer (CEO) Chen Jiulin received

a sentence of four years and three months imprisonment and a fine of 335,000 Singapore dollars (about 207,443 US dollars) after pleading guilty to charges of cheating, false reporting and insider trading.

The company lost over 500 million US dollars to speculative trading by Chen Jiulin in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Europe is the world's largest market for fish and while consumers' appetites have grown, stocks in European seas have dwindled. —INTERNET

Air NZ plans to issue credit cards to Chinese crew

WELLINGTON, 25 March — Air New Zealand plans to issue its Chinese staff with credit cards after it was revealed last week that Shanghai based cabin crew members received a quarter of their New Zealand colleagues' pay.

Last year, 59 of the 64 Chinese crew wrote a letter to Air New Zealand complaining of inequitable work conditions and having their meal allowance restricted to the hotel they stayed in and one Chinese restaurant, the

New Zealand Herald reported Monday.

In an internal memo sent last Friday, Air New Zealand's Shanghai manager Darrin Curtis told his staff they would be given credit cards to solve the issue of meal allowances.

Their allowance is now paid only if they have meals at the Dragon Boat Restaurant or the Crowne Plaza Hotel when they are

in Auckland. He also said their pay review would be given "top priority".

Other Air NZ crew received 175 NZ dollars (140 US dollars) cash in the hand for every day they were away from home.

The newspaper reported Air NZ had warned its crew against talking to news media about pay disparities.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan govt to privatize state-run telephone company

KABUL, 25 March — The government of Afghanistan on Sunday announced to put on sale the only state-owned telephone company "Afghan Telecom".

"Ministry for Communication and IT (MCIT) is seeking an investor to purchase 80 per cent of Afghan Telecom and the government will retain 20 per cent of ensure Afghan interests," Amirzai Sang-

in, Minister for Communication and IT told newsmen at a Press conference.

Established four years ago the company's capital has reached 190 million US dollars.

The company with using the latest CDMA coverage in all Afghanis-

tan's 34 provinces has connected the far-flung areas to the capital city Kabul, the minister said, adding that those companies or individuals interested in purchasing the Afghan Telecom can offer their proposals early next month.

MNA/Xinhua

31,525 Nepali job seekers apply for Korean Language Test

KATHMANDU, 25 March — A job aspirant in Nepal has to pay only 970.28 US dollars before being recruited in South Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS) of Korean Government, local media reported on Monday.

Issuing a statement on Sunday, the Ministry of Labour and Transport Management said the exam of Korean Language Test would be held on 29-30 March.

A total of 31,525 job seekers have applied for the exam, which is going to be held at 20 exam centres in capital Kathmandu.

The ministry has cautioned that job aspirants to beware of any individual making false promises of job opportunity in South Korea, a lucrative labour destination. —MNA/Xinhua



Indonesia plans to ban the sale of live poultry in Jakarta markets by 2010 as authorities intensify efforts to contain the spread of bird flu in the capital and its neighbouring districts on 25 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Progress of Transport Sector in the
Time of Tatmadaw Government



A train seen on Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), built for ensuring smooth transportation between upper, middle and lower Myanmar areas, that is the longest bridge in the entire nation.



Phaungdawgyi Jetty built at Sittway Wharf in Rakhine State.



Dagon Bridge built across Bago River linking Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and Thanlyin Townships of Yangon Division for ensuring smooth transportation.



Newly constructed Nay Pyi Taw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hailing 63rd Anniversary
Armed Forces Day

Sr.	Subject	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Rail Transportation			
	- railroad miles	1976.35	3148.86	1172.51
	- railtrack miles	2793.86	4230.40	1436.54
	- station	487	806	319
	- railroad bridge (big)	547	735	188
	- railroad bridge (small)	5103	9347	4244
2.	Aviation			
	- runway (over 5000 feet) airport	21	38	17
3.	Water Transport			
	- Jetty (local vessel)	86	107	21
	- Jetty (foreign vessel)	13	29	16
4.	Extension of roads	13635/0	19020/6	5385/6
5.	Extension of bridges			
	- Public Works			
	- above 180 feet bridge			
	- completed construction	198	407	209
	- under construction	-	24	24
	- under 180 feet bridge	3305	5379	2074
	- Myanma Railways (above 180 ft)	-	8	8
	- Military Engineer (over 180 ft)	-	11	11
	- Electric Power (over 180 ft)	-	2	2

HAILING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:

Strong and capable modern Tatmadaw

Khine Myo Sit

Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong



Just as a nation has been built with one race or more than one race, it needs to form a national army in order to guard against alien intruders and safeguard the nation. Armed forces protecting the State have existed in various forms in the successive periods no matter what they are called, the military or the armed forces.

All the nations have had their armed forces to defend themselves in the successive ages — in the age of stick,

sword, arrow and bow, in the age of one-barrel gun and home-made gun, in the age of rifle, machine-gun and artillery and in the present age of sophisticated weapons.

If we study formation of armed forces, most are national defence services. There are also mercenaries who fight only for the money. We have often noticed advertisements in periodicals calling for vacancies of mercenary soldiers. Those mercenaries are hired not for fighting for their own

country but for the money, especially for those who hire them to fight the target nations desired by the hirers.

There are also pocket armies that fight for a party, a ruling political organization or a person. A pocket army even fights against the innocent civilians if given orders let alone defending own nation and the people. It is not different from a mercenary.

Some avaricious nations with superiority in weapon and manpower are

forming and using colonialist troops to invade and exploit other nations, different from national armies. In the past, there was a certain imperialist nation also known as the vast empire where the sun never set. Till today the imperialist armies keep occupying about 60 nations. Most of the annexed nations are island nations in the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans with poor national defence.

Because of the Fascist troops of the Axis nations (that triggered WWII), more than 60 million world people died. With the invention of very sophisticated weapons, more and more atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, nuclear bombs, nuclear missiles and chemical and biological weapons are used. With an excuse that the Japanese troops were to surrender in the final days of WWII, two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan in August 1945 killing some 300,000 or

400,000 civilians.

Despite the fact that weapons should be used for defence purposes, people who want their world to be peaceful look as if they were sitting on a nuclear bomb.

Ancient Myanmar kings formed armed forces. There were courageous Myanmar soldiers in the successive periods as Myanmar have nationalistic fervour, patriotic spirit and national outlook. Myanmar has a fine tradition of fighting back the imperialist intruders. Although the armed forces of Myanmar kings had military skills, physical and mental prowess, bravery and military tactics, they were weak in weaponry skills while the western imperialist nations were inventing advanced weapons. As a consequence, Myanmar had to surrender to the imperialists also known as pirates, due to poor weaponry skills. However, the lake next to the northern stairways of the Shwedagon Pagoda is called Thwesaykan (the lake in which the bloodstains of imperialists on the swords were cleaned up) as a gesture of honouring Myanmar's swordmanship.

Even the colonialists were shocked to see the bravery and fighting skills of the Myanmar national people with unyielding spirit during the aggressive wars in 1824, 1852 and 1885. And they

praised Myanmar in their documents.

Undergoing military training and collecting weapons in order to fight back the colonialists and fascists for regaining independence, Myanmar formed a modern Myanmar Tatmadaw.

With the strength of Burma Independence Army, the country was able to drive out the British as well as the Fascist troops. From Burma Independence Army, to Burma Defence Army to Patriotic Burmese Forces, the present Myanmar Tatmadaw changed its name under time and circumstances.

But it has always stood as a Tatmadaw which took risk to safeguard Myanmar's independence, the Union and the people. It has always stood as a people's patriotic, faithful Tatmadaw.

During WWII, the Fascists reduced the number of BIA members and reconstituted it. However, Myanmar drove the Fascists out of the country and strove for the Tatmadaw to be able to fight the colonialists any time, to be recognized by the people and to be strong.

During the World War II the country needed a song encouraging the people to help the Tatmadaw

(See page 9)

Taking lesson from the past, Myanmar needs to reinforce the Tatmadaw in all aspects. Unlike a mercenary, pocket army, colonialist army and hegemonic army, the Myanmar Tatmadaw must be strong standing as a Tatmadaw or national army protecting the nation and the people.

HAILING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:**Strong and capable modern Tatmadaw***Khine Myo Sit**(from page 8)*

on all fronts by saying only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong. Bogyoke Aung San sent Lieutenant Tun Hla (Takkatho Nay Win) to patriotic composer Shwe Taing Nyunt, well-versed in music, to compose the song. Despite being ill and bedridden, he managed to compose the song as it was very important. In this way, the song titled "Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong" emerged and it is now sung across the country.

After WWII, the colonialists reentered Myanmar and revived their administrative machinery. Letya-Freeman agreement was signed to weaken the Myanmar Tatmadaw. At a time when the leftists and rightists were taking up armed insurrection in the post-independence period, pro-communist commanders went underground along with some units and companies of the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw crushed the armed insurgencies and helped the ruling AFPFL government carry on. The Tatmadaw has a fine tradition of protecting the State always standing by the people and especially in times of emergency.

At present time, wars are waged in many countries for various purposes, for example, colonialism, intrusion, interference, self-interest

and hegemonism. Because of such wars, world's countries are found to be trying their utmost to strengthen military might.

Taking lesson from the past, Myanmar needs to reinforce the Tatmadaw in all aspects. Unlike a mercenary, pocket army, colonialist army and hegemonic army, the Myanmar Tatmadaw must be strong standing as a Tatmadaw or national army protecting the nation and the people.

This is why the draft constitution (2008) drawn based on the fundamental principles laid down by the National Convention states as follows-

Article 20 (A) says "The Tatmadaw is the sole

existing Tatmadaw which is strong and modern."

As a united force, the Tatmadaw fought for Myanmar's independence. It safeguarded independence. It has restored internal peace. It has successfully carried out all-round development tasks in order that the people could fully enjoy taste of independence.

In the article 20 (D) and (E) of the draft constitution, the people entrust the Tatmadaw with the following responsibilities.

Article 20 (D) states "The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegration of the Union, non-

solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty."

Article 20 (E) says "The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution."

That is why the Tatmadaw which is mainly responsible for safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and the State Constitution is being built to become a strong, efficient and modern force in accord with the above-mentioned prescriptions.

It is obvious that the endeavours are meant for serving the interests of the State and the people.

(Translation: ST)

**National
Defence and
Security Sector**

**When Tatmadaw and
people join hands
who will dare to harm us?**

Ye Min Htet

Poem**Summer Story**

- * Taboungh ushers in summer
Green leaves and buds
Blooming with vigour
Summer they beautify
In large numbers
Fall yellow leaves on ground
Cooing is a cuckoo
Reminds me of history
Tatmadaw heroes wrote
- * One summer night
In the dark-blue sky
Missing were stars and moon
In that pitch-black midnight
Launched the guerrilla war
Fighting back Fascists
Sound of guns uninterrupted
With surprise attack
Seized a Fascist outpost
Bayonet fighting
Drenched with blood
A memorable night battle
On that March twenty-seventh
- * In that particular March
United were people
In harmony whole country
On Bago Yoma
Across Sittoung
Mobilizing forces
Storming enemy
Blood-bath battles every hour
Died many Fascists
Their bodies floating
Defeated by guerrilla war
Consolidated our patriots
Victory ours, end of Fascists
- * Summer story in mind
Brought into a poem
Reflecting Tatmadaw members
born of the people
Never forget where conceived
Will continue to work unwaveringly
Remaining loyal with nationalistic vigour
Risking life and limb
In the interests of the State
National Flag with white star on red
background
Hoisted together with the people.

(Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Ketu Nilar
(Translation)

Wayalet-Shwehninsi...

(from page 1)
Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) U Aung Thein Lin and Patron of Committee for Construction of the road U Khin Maung Oo formally opened the road.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence pressed a button to open the archway, and then inspected the road.

A ceremony to hand over the road was held at the hall of No 10 Basic Education Primary School in Palaya Ward. Chairman of Committee for Construction of the road U Sein Maung handed over documents related to the road to Head of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Yi Tun.

The ceremony ended with the remarks of USDA CEC Member (Yangon Division In-charge) U Aung Thein Lin.

The tarred road is

3,960 feet long, 12 feet wide and 6 inches thick. The facility serving as a link between No 1 Main Road and No 3 Main Road, plays a leading role in regional development.

The emergence of the road contributes much to regional development as well as to improving the living standard of local people.—MNA

NPE families offer meals to Sanghas under auspices of Minister and wife

YANGON, 25 March—Under the auspices of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye and staff families offered meals to members of the Sangha who will sit for Pathamapyan examination at Dagon Pariyatti Monastery in Dagon Township here this morning.

The ceremony was opened with three times recitation of Namo Tassa . The managing director and

wife and staff families received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Gantha Vacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Mamaka of Dagon Pariyatti Monastery and presented eight requisites.

The managing director and wife and staffs shared merits gained and the ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, the managing director and wife and staff members offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.—MNA



Managing Director U Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye and staff families offer ‘soon’ to monks.— MNA

Myanmar-China fibre optic cable of GMS-IS Project launched

Opening ceremony of Myanmar-China fibre optic cable of GMS-IS project in progress in Muse.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Myanmar-China fibre optic cable that is included in GMS-IS Project was launched at the office of Auto-exchange of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Muse town, Muse District on 12 March.

Present on the occasion

were the Director-General of Directorate of Telecommunications, the General Manager of MPT and officials, heads of departments in Muse District, local people, Deputy General Director Mr Qian Tingshuo of Ministry of Information and Industry and party and

officials of ASB, China Telecom and Yunnan Telecom.

In order to implement fiber optic cable, MoU was signed and tasks were started carrying out after the minister level meeting held in Laos in 2004. A total of 12 fibre optic cables will be built in Mekong

region. There are Myanmar-China and Myanmar-Thailand fibre optic cables in Myanmar side.

The General Manager of MPT and Deputy General Director Mr Qian Tingshuo of Ministry of Information and Industry formally opened the ceremony and then the Director-General of Directorate of Communications unveiled the signboard of the ceremony.

Those present practically made use of telephone, Internet and Video conferencing and they grew trees on the plot in front of the office.

Bandwidth Capacity STM-64 (10 Gb) can be used on the fibre optic cable and STM-16 (2.5 Gb) on its auxiliary cable. Apart from China, Myanmar can exchange information by telephone and Internet with six countries in Mekong region.—MNA



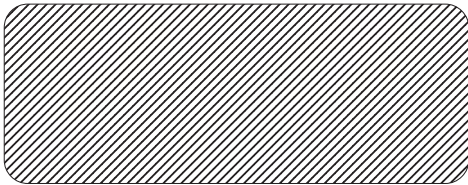
Myanmar Fisheries Federation to organize talks

YANGON, 25 March — Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawns Entrepreneurs Association and supported by Han Sein Thant Engineering & Trading, Dr Tin Latt (MAT College) will give talks on Internal Auditing and Risk Management at Thiri Annawar Hall of MFF on Bayint Naung Road in Insein Township here on 29 March. Interested persons may attend it.—H

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**



A child visits the “Cloth Dolls’ Salon” in Sabile of Latvia, on 24 March, 2008. The salon, founded by a handicraft lover more than a year ago, displayed almost 300 dolls made of cloth. —XINHUA



Jugglers of Baobab circus from Africa perform during a show at Jorge Isaacas theatre in Cali, Colombia, on 12 March, 2008. Picture taken on 12 March, 2008.—INTERNET



The photo taken on 23 March, 2008 shows a scene from the musical play “Cat” at Poly Theater of Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province. The play would stage eight performances from 23 to 30 March in Shenzhen.—XINHUA



Chinese soprano Shen Na, seen here at a press conference at the National Center for the Performing Arts on 24 March, will play Rozenn in opera “Le Roi d’Ys.” —INTERNET

Images of the Day



Farmers in Germany have taken to spraying their budding fruit trees with water for protection from the cold weather that’s put a damper on spring here. Once the water turns to ice, the buds are safe from frost.—INTERNET

One of the The Bombastic Bouncers, from Ukraine, with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, does a back flip when the cast of the circus appeared on the NBC ‘Today’ television show in New York’s Rockefeller Plaza, on 25 March, 2008. —INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-217)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-217) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Mexico authorities fight forest fire in northern state

MEXICO CITY, 24 March—Mexican authorities are fighting a major forest fire in Santiago, a town in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, with eight helicopters and earth movers, which are being used to create firewalls, the National Forest Fire Centre said Sunday.

The helicopters, which belong to the state's Civil Protection Authority, the Defence Ministry, and governments of neighbouring states Coahuila and San Luis Potosi, are spraying water and chemical fire retardants.

There are yet to be any reports of casualties, the fire centre said.

The authorities said the fire has affected an area covering 3,600 hectares, of which 3,060 hectares are bush and shrubbery and 540 hectares are mature pine or holm oak trees.—MNA/Xinhua



A car is seen on the snow-covered mountainous area of Hankyeryong in Yangyang county, about 280 km (174 miles) east of Seoul, on 24 March, 2008.— INTERNET

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co., Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 408, Tashirodaikan-machi, Tosu-shi, Saga 841-0017 Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

AIR SALONPAS

Reg. No. 842/1999

in respect of "Int. Class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations; Dietetic substances adapted for medical use, food for babies; Plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; Disinfectants; Preparations for destroying vermin; Fungicides, herbicides".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 26 March 2008

Brazil spends nearly \$200m on tobacco-linked illness

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 March—Brazil's government spends at least 330 million reais (194 million US dollars) annually on treating tobacco-related illness, the state-run Oswaldo Cruz Foundation said in a report Sunday.

Foundation economist Marcia Pinto based the estimates on spending by the Unified Health System on patients being treated for 32 smoking-related conditions.

The figure, representing nearly 8 per cent of total spending by the health system, has been extrapolated from a sample of 310 patients who were treated in 2000 at the National Cancer Institute or the National Cardiology Institute, she said.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexican Army arrests senior drug smuggler

MEXICO CITY, 25 March—Mexico's Army has arrested Raul Hernandez Barron, known by his alias Flander, a former soldier who left the Army to work for a leading Mexican drug cartel, Mexico's Defence Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. Hernandez was a key figure in the control of drug flows through the north of eastern Mexican state Veracruz where he was arrested on Friday, the statement said.

Hernandez had been carrying an AR-15 rifle, 150 cartridges and a nine-millimetre handgun, the reportsaid.—MNA/Xinhua

British woman gives up North Pole bid after fall

LONDON, 24 March—British explorer Hannah McKeand has called off her attempt to become the first woman to reach the North Pole alone and unaided after falling through ice and injuring herself, her expedition manager said on Sunday.

She set out from Canada's Ward Hunt Island on 8 March and by skiing, walking and swimming had hoped to take 60 days to cover the 478 miles (770 kilometres) to the pole, where temperatures can dip to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

The 34-year-old McKeand hurt her leg, back and shoulder after falling into an eight-foot deep hole in the polar ice on Thursday night, 45 miles north of her starting point.

"Hannah had climbed onto a pile of ice blocks to scout the view ahead," said expedition manager Steve Jones.

"There was a crack in the ice but no hint that it was a dangerous situation. Without warning the snow gave way and Hannah fell sideways into a hole eight-feet deep."

McKeand took an hour to extricate herself from the hole and camped overnight but in pain and with limited mobility decided to abandon the expedition.

She will be airlifted to a Canadian forces airstrip and then taken to Resolute and finally on to Ottawa for medical checks.

. Five years ago Briton Pen Hadow, then 41, became the first person to reach the North Pole unaided from Canada, completing the trip in 64 days.

MNA/Reuters

Morales vows to continue battle for lost sea access

LIMA, 24 March—Bolivian President Evo Morales said on Sunday his nation will never give up fighting for its sea access seized by Chile during a war in the 19th century.

His administration would continue using peaceful means to get back its sea access to the Pacific Ocean and that he was confident an understanding could be reached with the Chilean side, Morales said at a public ceremony. Sunday marks the anniversary of the death of Bolivian hero Eduardo Abaroa, who lost his life in defending Calama, a Bolivian city annexed by Chile in the 1879 War of the Pacific.

During the War, Chile defeated a combined forces of Bolivia and Peru and took 120,000 square kilometres from Bolivia, including 400 kilometres of coastline on the Pacific Ocean.

The South American nation, which has demanded sea access ever since, cut off diplomatic relations with Chile in 1978, saying its demand had not been taken seriously. Morales said at the end of last year he had met with his Chilean counterpart Michelle Bachelet and worked out with her a 13-point agenda on the issue.— MNA/Xinhua

Flooding hits Sri Lanka, slows civil war pace

COLOMBO, 25 March—Heavy rains in Sri Lanka have killed eight people and affected more than 340,000 others while restricting military gains over rebels in the country's worsening civil war, the military said on Sunday.

Unusually heavy torrential rains have caused widespread flooding and landslides in eastern agricultural and rice-growing areas, as well as in the north where the military has launched a fresh offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels.

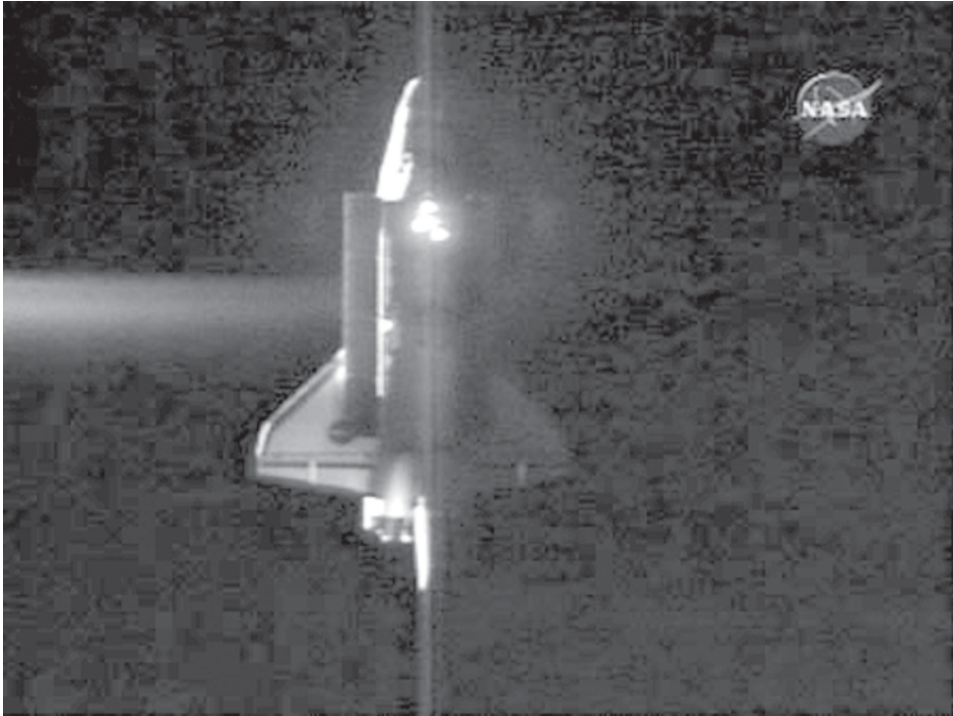
"Around 7 per cent of the harvest in major paddy producing areas has been destroyed," said Agriculture Department Director General C Kudamage on Sunday.

Disaster Relief Services Minister MSS Ameer Ali told local media that food rations would be distributed to tens of thousands of families in the worst affected "food bowl" province of Ampara and other areas.

Flooding and mass displacement of people are common in Sri Lanka, but northeast monsoon rains usually start in May.

Flooding had also hit more than 41,000 people in the conflict-torn north-eastern district of Mannar, where fighting is continuing between the Tigers and government forces after a truce in the country's 25-year civil war ended in January.

The military on Sunday said its forces had taken control of small but strategically vital areas around Parayakulam and Andillanthaven in Mannar, with 25 Tigers killed and another 25 injured, according to intercepted rebel radio reports.—MNA/Reuters



The shuttle Endeavour is seen from a camera mounted on the International Space Station in this image from NASA TV after the two spacecrafts undocked on 24 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Japan PM's support slides to 24.7%

TOKYO, 24 March — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's support rate slid to 24.7 per cent in a poll by private broadcaster TV Asahi released on Monday, the latest sign of doubts about his leadership that are raising questions about his future.

Fukuda's falling popularity — he initially boasted support rates of about 60 per cent — has sparked speculation that his ruling party may try to replace him before an election that could come this year. But analysts say ousting a premier is difficult.

"Somebody has to take the initiative and draw out the knife," said Koichi Nakano, a political science professor at Sophia University. "It takes a bit of courage to do this."

Public backing for 71-year-old Fukuda has taken a hit from his apparent failure to cope with a political deadlock born of a divided Parliament that has already left a vacancy at the top of the Bank of Japan. The stalemate is also threatening tax measures needed to fund national and state budgets for the fiscal year from 1 April. —MNA/Reuters

270 die of TB in Hong Kong every year

HONG KONG, 24 March — Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the top infectious diseases in Hong Kong as an average of 270 people were killed by the epidemic annually in the metropolis during recent years, a senior health official said here on Sunday.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the annual World TB Day, Dr Gloria Tam, the Acting Director of Health, said that it would be incorrect to think that the disease was something of the past and had no local relevance.

According to the

Department of Health's figures, 6,000 new TB cases were reported annually in Hong Kong, whose socio-economic developments and public health efforts were among one of the world developed regions.

Dr Tam said that nearly nine million new cases and more than 1.5 million deaths were reported worldwide each year, stressing the importance of setting 24 March each year to be the World TB Day by the World Health Organization (WHO).

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil mily will combat dengue outbreak in Rio

BRASILIA, 24 March — Brazil's military will help fight an outbreak of dengue fever in Rio de Janeiro, the Defence Ministry said at the weekend, after the disease killed 49 people and made more than 30,000 ill this year.

Public hospitals in the northern and western districts of the city were overwhelmed by the number of patients seeking treatment at the weekend. Many complained about long delays.

The Defence Ministry said Army, Air Force and Navy commanders would propose an action plan to Defence Minister Nelson Jobim as early as Monday on how to combat the disease in the famous beach and port city. Jobim said on Friday the Armed Forces may set up field hospitals in the city.

Health officials confirmed on Sunday that a 12-year-old boy died of dengue, bringing the death toll to 49 people this year, according to the Globo Online news agency. More than 30,000 people have fallen ill with the disease this year, state health officials said on Thursday. —MNA/Reuters

Four policemen, rebel killed in Kashmir clash

SRINAGAR, 24 March — Four policemen and a militant were killed on Sunday after a gun battle in Kashmir's main city, police said. The encounter, the first in past eight months in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, broke out after police raided a militant hideout.

"Militants hiding in a house fired indiscriminately. We have lost four policemen," Srinagar police chief Syed Ahfadul Mujtaba said.

He said a top militant of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group was also killed. The violence comes days after rebels

exploded a powerful bomb in the heart of Srinagar, killing one person and wounding about two dozens. —MNA/Reuters

UN chief calls for elimination of roots of TB

UNITED NATIONS, 24 March — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called for the elimination of the roots of tuberculosis epidemic in struggling with the disease.

In his message marking the World TB Day, which is observed annually on 24 March, Ban said in order to prevent a virtually untreatable tuberculosis epidemic, "we must tackle the roots of the problem: poor services, poor supplies, poor prescribing and poor

use of drugs."

"This is a fight that can be won only with the collective commitment of millions of individuals — donors and researchers, doctors and health care workers, patients and family members," he stressed, urging an intensified global response to save lives.

The UN chief also announced that the United Nations will convene a Global Leaders' HIV/TB Forum this June in an effort to boost the collective capacity to drive down HIV-associated TB deaths.

"In this effort, we can

draw inspiration from a number of African countries which have shown that it is possible to scale-up services that reach out and screen TB patients for HIV, screen HIV-infected people for TB, and initiate care," he noted.

Ban observed that these impressive advances are the result of the efforts of individuals, adding that "I am stopping TB" is not just the theme for this day, but a pledge people must uphold as they battle the epidemic throughout the year and into the future.

Internet

Five killed in fresh rocket attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 March — Five people were killed and eight others wounded when a fresh rocket attack struck a residential area in eastern Baghdad on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"One *Katyusha* rocket struck an area near a mosque in the neighbourhood of Kamali-yah in eastern Baghdad at about 10:00 am (0700 GMT), killing five people and wounding eight others," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The attack took place after five rockets targeting different parts of the capital city, including the heavily fortified Green Zone, killed a civilian and

wounded five others.

Baghdad's Sunday started with a rocket barrage when about 10 rocket explosions rocked the sprawling Green Zone in central Baghdad around 6:00 am (0300 GMT), a ministry source said.

Emergency sirens could be heard in the highly protected area which houses the government offices and foreign embassies, including the US one.

Insurgents frequently targeted the Green Zone by mortars and rockets.

The roughly 10 square kilometres area is located on the west bank of the Tigris River which bisects the Iraqi capital.

MNA/Xinhua

A rainbow is seen in the background while a woman holding an umbrella walks in downtown Sofia. —INTERNET



SPORTS



Geoff Ogilvy of Australia holds the CA Championship trophy after winning the golf tournament in Doral, Florida. Ogilvy finished 17-under-par 271.—INTERNET

Beijing Olympic flame lit in ancient Olympia

OLYMPIA (Greece), 25 March — The Beijing Olympic flame was ignited in a traditional sun-ray ceremony at 11:45 on Monday in front of the Hera Temple of ancient Olympia.

Dark clouds over the lighting rehearsal parted as a flawless torch lighting ceremony was held to start an unprecedented torch relay in Greece, across five continents and China.

The High Priestess Maria Nafpliotou lit the flame out of a concave mirror. Then the flame was carried in a replica of ancient urn to the ancient Olympia stadium where it was to kindle the first Olympic torch.

High Priestess Maria Nafpliotou handed over the torch to the first torchbearer Alexandros Nikolaidis, 2004 Olympic silver medallist in taekwondo.

The Olympic Anthem, the National Anthem of the People's Republic of China, the National Anthem of Greece were played and the Olympic Flag, the Chinese Flag and the Greek Flag were hoisted at the lighting ceremony.

Speeches were given by the mayor of ancient Olympia Georgios Aidonis, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee Minos Kyriakou and Liu Qi, President of the Beijing Organizing Committee of Olympic Games (BOCOG).

"Today will lead to the opening of the first ever Olympic Games in China, where one fifth of the world's population is longing for them," said Rogge.

MNA/Reuters

Injured Ronaldo, Nani pull out of Portugal squad

LISBON, 25 March — Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo and Nani have been ruled out of Portugal's Euro 2008 warm-up with Greece in Duesseldorf, Germany on Wednesday due to injuries, the Portuguese Football Federation said on Monday.

Ronaldo and Nani, who both scored in United's 3-0 win over Liverpool on Sunday, are suffering from leg muscle problems, the federation said on its website (www.fpf.pt).

"We proposed to coach (Luiz Felipe Scolari) that the players be released from the squad and he accepted," squad doctor Henrique Jones was quoted as saying. No replacements were named.

Portugal are in Group A with Czech Republic, co-hosts Switzerland and Turkey in the Euro 2008 finals in June. —MNA/Reuters

Rooney, Lampard fit enough to train with England

WATFORD (England), 25 March — Wayne Rooney and Frank Lampard, who both took knocks in their Premier League matches on Sunday, trained in the snow with England on Monday and should be fit for Wednesday's friendly against France.

Lampard took a blow to his hip during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Arsenal at Stamford Bridge, while Rooney grimaced in pain while holding his knee in Manchester United's 3-0 win over Liverpool at Old Trafford.

Both players went through their paces at Arsenal's London Colney training ground with the rest of a 23-man squad which included David Beckham, who should win his 100th cap on Wednesday.

Coach Fabio Capello, who named a provisional 30-man squad last week has already been forced to make some changes with injured goalkeepers

Stanford's Jayne Appel, left, scores over UTEP's Izabela Piekarska in the second half during the second round of the NCAA women's basketball tournament in Stanford, Calif, on 24 March, 2008. Stanford won 88-54. INTERNET



Chris Kirkland and Scott Carson being replaced by Paul Robinson and Robert Green.

Gabriel Agbonlahor, Jermain Defoe, Jermaine Jenas, Ashley Young, Shaun Wright-Phillips and David Wheater were all left out of the original squad while Matthew Upson withdrew because of injury.

Capello, in charge of England for a second match, said he had no problems in recalling Beckham after leaving him out of his first squad against Switzerland last month.

MNA/Reuters

Henry, Vieira join France casualty list

CLAIREFONTAINE (France), 25 March — France will be depleted by injuries when they face England in a friendly on Wednesday after striker Thierry Henry and captain Patrick Vieira added their names to a long casualty list on Monday.

Henry pulled out of the game at the Stade de France because of an unspecified injury, a French team spokesman said.

Inter Milan midfielder Vieira, who is hampered by a sore thigh muscle, said he would not play.

"I'm feeling better but not enough to play on Wednesday," Vieira told reporters at France's training camp outside Paris "It's very frustrating".

France coach Raymond Domenech, who last week named a 39-man squad both for the England match and a game between France's B side and Mali on Tuesday in Paris, has seen many of them pull out since.

"It's a nuisance to have so many players injured but it's better to have the problem now than just before Euro 2008," said Vieira.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham wants more than 100 England caps

LONDON, 25 March — David Beckham said he would be honoured to win his 100th cap for England in Wednesday's friendly away to France, if selected by manager Fabio Capello, but stressed he didn't want the milestone to mark the end of his international career.

Now playing for US side LA Galaxy, the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder failed to be included in Capello's first England squad for last month's 2-1 win over Switzerland at Wembley.

But, having been recalled by Capello - his boss at Real - the ex-England captain is keen to play his part in the team's bid to qualify for the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

"I've enjoyed it, enjoyed being back with the guys and training was great so I am very happy," Beckham told a news conference after a practice session here at London Colney, Arsenal's training ground.

"I never thought a year ago or two years ago that I would make 95 caps, never mind 100. I'm honoured that I'm making, hopefully, my 100th appearance in an England shirt but I'm also honoured to be doing it against one of the best teams in the world.

"But as much as I'm honoured to be here I want it to carry on. It doesn't stop here for me. It's not about 'have your 100th game and then retire'. It's about carrying on trying to play well for my country."—Internet



David Beckham

Russia coach Hiddink signs new two year contract

Moscow, 25 March — Guus Hiddink signed a new two-year contract on Monday to continue coaching Russia until the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"Hiddink signed his contract this evening," a spokesman for the Russian Football Union (RFU) told Reuters. The Dutchman said he was pleased with the deal.

"It took a while but we are all happy now," said Hiddink. "I can now focus all my energy to prepare the team for Euro 2008 (in June)."

His initial contract was due to expire this July. Details of the new deal were not disclosed.

Hiddink, 61, who guided Russia to the Euro finals from a tough group that included Croatia and

England, had been earning two million euros (2.9 million US dollars) a year, according to media reports. His salary package is paid for by Chelsea's billionaire owner Roman Abramovich through his National Academy Fund.

The Dutchman agreed in principle to extend his contract in October on the eve of a Euro 2008 qualifier against England in Moscow but it took another five months for the two sides to work out the detail.

Most of the negotiations were focused on paying taxes. Last year a Dutch court handed Hiddink a six-month suspended sentence and fined him 45,000 euros (59,270 US dollars) after finding him guilty of tax fraud. —MNA/Reuters

Israeli Army detains six Palestinians in West Bank

RAMALLAH, 25 March — The Israeli Army forces arrested Sunday six Palestinian activists in the West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian security sources reported.

Israeli Army forces stormed several neighbourhoods in the city, where soldiers raided houses and detained six Palestinian young men, said the sources.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Army imposed a curfew on a village near Qaqilia in northern West Bank after youngsters hurled stones at Israeli cars, said the sources.

Also in the West Bank, Islamic Hamas movement said more than 30 vehicles of security forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas stormed a village near southern West Bank town of Hebron.

Dozens of Hamas activists clashed with Abbas security officers, the witnesses said.

No injuries was reported.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea military “trains” against oil price surge

SEOUL, 25 March — South Korea’s military said on Monday it would introduce a new type of training in the face of record oil prices — energy saving.

A Defence Ministry official said that senior officers of the Army, Navy and Air Forces had decided to lop more than 50 million US dollars off their fuel bill this year by cutting training flights, Army field drills and making ships slow down.

“We are basically carrying out ‘energy-saving’ training in which we aim to reduce oil

expenses while still meeting our goals,” the official said.

Under the plan, flight hours for training will be cut from 150 to 135 with pilots spending more time at computer simulators instead of in the cockpit.

Along with slowing down the speed of vessels training at sea, the Navy will also try to keep older,

and less fuel efficient ships in port to save on oil.

Resource-poor South Korea is the world’s fifth largest oil importer and relies entirely on import for the commodity that hit a record high over 111 US dollars a barrel in March.

South Korea, which is still technically at war with North Korea, has about 670,000 troops in its military, backed by around 28,000 US troops.

While pauper North Korea spends a large portion of its meagre budget on its 1.2-million-strong military, it has for years had to keep much of its ageing Air Force on the ground and tanks in bunkers because of a lack of fuel. — MNA/Reuters

China’s installed capacity of wind power hits ten mln KWS

BEIJING, 25 March — China’s installed capacity of wind power will hit 10 million kilowatts this year, and the figure is expected to double in 2010, a senior official said here on Sunday.

To develop clean energy, China will expand the installed capacity of nuclear power, making it account for more than 5 per cent of the national total power installed capacity by the year 2020, said vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission Zhang Guobao.

China has vowed to develop nuclear power in its 11th five-year plan for economic and social development (2006-2010), with the aim to realize

40,000 megawatts of operating installed capacity by 2020.

Currently, China’s operating installed capacity of nuclear power stations stands at 8,600 megawatts.

MNA/Xinhua

Foot-and-mouth disease hits central Vietnam

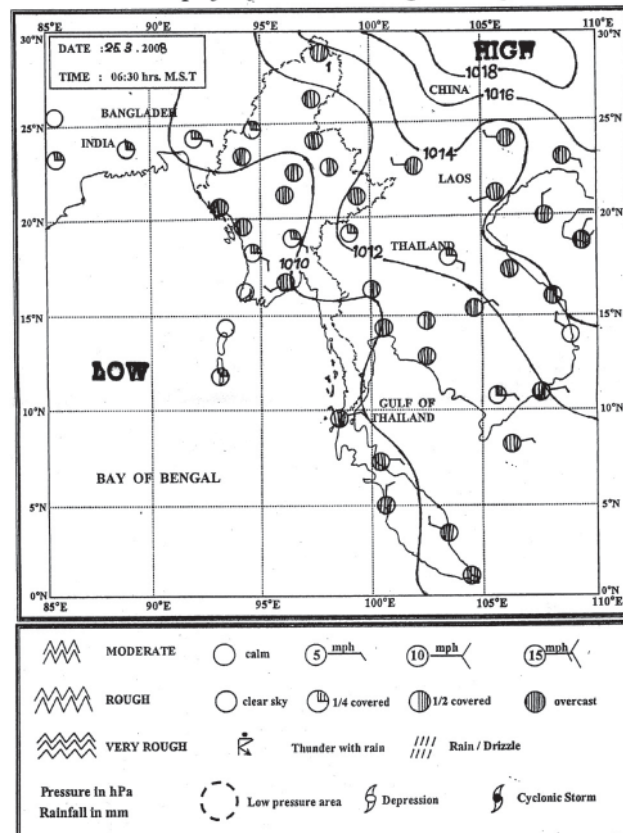
HANOI, 25 March — Vietnam’s central Ha Tinh Province has been stricken by foot-and-mouth disease, local newspaper *New Hanoi* reported on Monday.

The disease affected six bulls in the province from 16-19 March, the paper quoted the Department of Animal Health under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as saying.

The provincial Veterinary Bureau has culled all infected cattle and detoxified the affected farms.

Under a national agriculture development plan approved by the government in 2005, Vietnam will, by 2010, have 35-40 million pigs, some 6.7 million bulls and cows and 2.8-3 million buffaloes. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 25 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, isolated in Chin State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (7°C) below March average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (6°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan States, (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (42°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Aungmye and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw, Putao and Myeik (0.12) inch each and Yamethin (0.07) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 25-3-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-3-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 24-3-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (00:30) hours MST on 25-3-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 26-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Northern Rakhine, northern Shan States, Sagaing Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-3-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-3-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Wednesday, 26 March

View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Musical programme

7:55 am

5. Dance of national

6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:10 am

8:30 am

7. International news

8:40 am

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:55 am

9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

1. Martial songs

4:10 pm

2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု

တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ

4:20 pm

3. “ဒီအိုတီအက်စ်”

(ဖိုးဖြူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊

နိုင်သင်းကြည်ကြွကြွသင်း)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်)

(ဖိုးနစ်)

4:30 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်

ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ်

(သမိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သမိုင်း)

4:45 pm

5. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

4:55 pm

6. Dance variety

5:05 pm

7. နိုင်ငံတော်အလေးထား

ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:15 pm

8. ရှုမဝနံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:25 pm

9. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:35 pm

10. ရသပေါ်လွင်

သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

6:45 pm

14. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်

အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:00 pm

15. “ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော်”

(နိုင်ငံအင်အားလမ်းညွှန်တော်)

(ပြည်သူ့အားမာန်ဆည်တံ)

7:10 pm

16. “သစ္စာမော်ကွန်း”(အပိုင်း-၁)

(သူလွှမ်းမင်းဟိန်း၊ သားညို၊

ရွှေနိုင်ဝင်း၊သတ္တိ၊ မင်းခေါ်မြတ်ဦး၊

နန္ဒာဇင်မျိုး၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊

ချစ်စနိုးဦး၊ ပိုင်ဖြိုးသူ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)

8:00 pm

17. Local news

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. “သစ္စာမော်ကွန်း”(အပိုင်း-၂)

(သူလွှမ်းမင်းဟိန်း၊သားညို၊

ရွှေနိုင်ဝင်း၊သတ္တိ၊ မင်းခေါ်မြတ်ဦး၊

နန္ဒာဇင်မျိုး၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊

ချစ်စနိုးဦး၊ ပိုင်ဖြိုးသူ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Commander, Ministers inspect maintenance of retaining wall in Nyaungdon



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect the retaining wall in Nyaungdon.— A & I

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Chairman of instructions. Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South- West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 20 March met with local authorities and departmental officials at Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in Nyaungdon, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division and gave necessary

Director-General U Soe Myint of DWRIRS, Chairman of Maubin District Peace and Development Council U Htay Win and Chairman of Nyaungdon Township PDC U Nyunt Tin reported on the maintenance of embankments and building of retaining wall along the river to the commander who called for maintenance of the retaining wall of Panhlaing River.

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe briefed on the maintenance of embankment. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe stressed the need for officials to engage in maintenance of embankment in rainy season. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo briefed on the maintenance of Nyaungdon embankment in cooperation with Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems and Irrigation Department.

Afterwards, the commander and ministers looked into building of retaining wall between 11th and 12th Streets and the current of Panhlaing River.

MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

ARTICLE

Strong and capable modern Tatmadaw

Taking lesson from the past, Myanmar needs to reinforce the Tatmadaw in all aspects. Unlike a mercenary, pocket army, colonialist army and hegemonic army, the Myanma Tatmadaw must be strong standing as a Tatmadaw or national army protecting the nation and the people.

PAGES 8+9

Progress of Transport Sector in the Time of Tatmadaw Government



POEM

- * Taboung ushers in summer
Green leaves and buds
Blooming with vigour
Summer they beautify
In large numbers
Fall yellow leaves on ground
Cooing is a cuckoo
Reminds me of history
Tatmadaw heroes wrote

CARTOON



When Tatmadaw and people join hands who will dare to harm us?

National Defence and Security Sector

Ye Min Htet